



PRESS RELEASE
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For Immediate Release

July 10, 2006

FORMER TAMPA POLICE OFFICER AND SPOUSE
SENTENCED FOR DEFRAUDING OTHERS

Tampa, Florida - Today United States District Judge James D. Whittemore sentenced BRIAN CHARLES SEELY, age 41, of Wesley Chapel, to six months home detention, five years supervised release and restitution of \$38,448.25. On April 10, 2006 SEELY pleaded guilty to conspiracy to commit mail fraud and five counts of mail fraud. His wife, RAGAN SUZANNE SEELY, age 38, pled guilty to three counts of bank fraud and was sentenced today to eight months' imprisonment concurrent on the three counts of conviction; five years of supervised release which includes eight months of home confinement; restitution in the amount of \$54,189.15.

The couple was indicted on December 8, 2005. According to court records, from August 2000 until January 2005 the couple rented several different homes. When paying the rent at each of these properties they would write a check which would be returned for insufficient funds. In some cases they wrote a check for the security deposit as well, which was returned for insufficient funds. After being notified by the property owner that the rental checks were being returned, the couple normally would make payments and then revert to issuing worthless checks again. Eventually, the couple would be evicted.

The investigation of this case was initiated by the Tampa Police Department and it was also investigated by the United States Secret Service. It was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Robert E. O'Neill.